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VERTICAL SERVICES INTEGRATION ENABLED
CONTENT DISTRIBUTION MECHANISMS

Abstract of the Invention

The invention relates to an enhanced ADSL Data Network (ADN) with vertical services capabilities. In general, vertical services capabilities are data services offered directly from a central office to an end user, without compromising the integrity of the user's guaranteed bit rate to the Internet through the ADN. One such vertical service is content downloadable at a high data rate from a content server located in or proximate to a central office that serves the end user. The content of the local server is updated and upgraded periodically and systematically from a central content server that distributes content to a number of remote central offices. The content is distributed between the central content server and the respective local content servers using available bandwidth, that is to say bandwidth on at least certain network links that is unused by subscriber traffic.